

BUILT ENVIRONMENT CASE STUDY

# The Mercantile Hotel

Acoustic Design for a Quiet Respite in the Heart of Boisterous Dublin City Centre

## VISION

A boutique Dublin landmark where guests find genuine quiet alongside lively dining and bar spaces—steps from Temple Bar, amid one of the city's busiest streets.

## PARTNERSHIP

Our team worked directly with The Mercantile Group from design through commissioning, integrating acoustic requirements at every stage rather than as an afterthought.

## VALUE-ADD

Full acoustic scope: sound insulation, facade performance, room acoustics, and HVAC noise control—verified at completion through commissioning testing.

### ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT:

*AWN Consulting,  
a Trinity Consultants team*

### CLIENT

*The Mercantile Group*

### ARCHITECT(S)

*Michael Fitzpatrick Architects / G+W  
O'Brien Architects / Millimetre Design*

### MEP DESIGN

*JAK Consulting Engineers*

The Mercantile Hotel occupies a prominent corner on Dame Street in the heart of Dublin city centre, where it has been part of the urban fabric since the 1800s. Following an extensive refurbishment completed in 2025, the hotel re-opened as a boutique destination offering guest rooms, a bar, and restaurant spaces, all within a building that carries significant architectural and cultural character. Balancing the acoustic demands of a busy hospitality venue with the constraints of a protected historic structure required careful, considered design from the outset.

AWN Consulting, a Trinity Consultants team, was appointed to deliver a full acoustic design service for the project. Working with the client, The Mercantile Group, our team provided comprehensive guidance across all acoustic disciplines, from the earliest design stages through to completion and commissioning testing.

## VISION

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The Mercantile Group's vision was to transform a well-loved Dublin landmark into a modern boutique hotel that retained the character and warmth of its historic setting. For guests, that means comfortable, well-appointed rooms and lively dining and bar spaces, all in a building steps from Temple Bar, Grafton Street, and the city's cultural heart. Achieving that experience depends in no small part on getting the acoustic environment right: rooms that offer genuine quiet and rest, and social spaces that are vibrant without being intrusive.

The Dame Street location adds further complexity: a city centre environment with significant ambient noise from traffic, pedestrians, and nearby venues. Delivering a hotel where guests feel insulated from that activity, while the building itself remains an active, lively part of the street is a challenge that requires acoustic design to work hand in hand with architecture and building services from the earliest stages.

## PARTNERSHIP

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Our team worked directly with The Mercantile Group throughout the project, establishing a close working relationship with the client from design through to delivery. This engagement allowed acoustic requirements to be clearly communicated and integrated at each stage, rather than treated as an afterthought. The result was a collaborative process in which acoustic performance was considered alongside architectural and operational priorities from the start.

Commissioning testing at the end of the project provided the client with documented assurance that the completed building met the acoustic standards specified at design stage. This close-out activity is an important part of our team's service offering, ensuring that design intent is verified in the finished building and that any issues are identified and addressed before handover.

## VALUE-ADD

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The full acoustic design scope covered sound insulation of the building fabric and facade, HVAC and MEP noise control, room acoustics, and commissioning testing. Each element plays a distinct role in the overall acoustic experience of the hotel. Sound insulation between spaces, including between guest rooms and from plant and bar areas, is fundamental to guest comfort. Facade performance determines how effectively the building manages the noise environment of one of Dublin's busiest streets. Room acoustics shape how spaces feel and function, whether a quiet bedroom or a lively bar.

HVAC and MEP noise control is often an underappreciated element of hospitality acoustic design. Mechanical systems that are audible in guest rooms represent one of the most common sources of complaint in hotels. Our team's guidance on plant selection, ductwork routing, and vibration isolation helped ensure that building services remained unobtrusive in the completed hotel.

The Mercantile Hotel opened in May 2025, returning a well-known Dublin landmark to active use as a boutique hospitality destination. Our team's acoustic design contribution helped ensure that the refurbished building meets the standards guests expect, and that the character and energy of the hotel can be enjoyed without compromising the comfort and quiet that guests also need.

### ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.